

REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended and claim 3 is canceled herein. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1, 2, 10, and 12 will be pending in the above-referenced application.

Drawings

Applicant requests approval of the proposed drawing changes. Specifically, FIGS. 1, 3A-3D, 4, and 5 have been changed to illustrate the protective insulating film 8 is etched to form the holes. The specification supports the changes to FIGS. 1, 3A-3D, 4, and 5 (e.g., page 15, lines 9-13). Applicant will submit new formal drawings when the above changes are approved.

In a telephonic interview on August 10, 2004, the Examiner withdrew the objection to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(5) because the specification was previously amended to accommodate the re-lettering of original FIGS. 3G-3J to 3A-3D.

Section 103

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,281,552 (Kawasaki) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,246,070 (Yamazaki).

Claims 1 and 2 recite a bottom-gate thin-film transistor comprising a gate electrode, a gate insulating film, an active layer, and a protective insulating film deposited in that order on a substrate. A plurality of layers are formed over the protective film with at least one electrode extending therethrough that is operatively and electrically connected to one of the active layer, an LDD region and a source-drain region. The protective insulating film has a thickness of less than 100 nm and greater than 50 nm, the protective insulating film is formed on any one of the active layer, LDD region, and source-drain region, and there is no etched mask structure within the thin film transistor structure.

Neither Kawasaki nor Yamazaki, considered alone or in combination, disclose or suggest a bottom-gate thin-film transistor including a protective insulating film having a thickness of less than 100 nm and greater than 50 nm. Rather, Kawasaki discloses a

protective insulating film 150 having a thickness ranging between 100 nm and 400 nm, and Yamazaki discloses an insulating film 105 and a protective film 108 having a thickness ranging between 5 and 50 nm. Accordingly, the Section 103 rejection of claims 1 and 2 is improper and should be withdrawn.

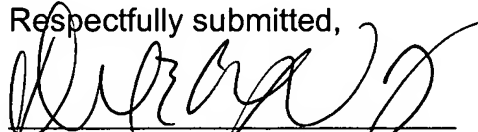
Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that there is any issue which could be resolved by an interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

As it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests a favorable action and Notice of Allowance.

Dated: February 8, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



David E. Crawford, Jr., Reg. No. 38,118
Customer No. 26263
314.259.5810

IN THE DRAWINGS

Enclosed are 3 sheets of drawings showing proposed changes in red.